

Processing and Mining Manager

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Bachelor's degree in mechanical, mining, or electrical engineering

SALARY RANGE¹

- \$90,000–\$110,000

WHO ARE THEY?^{1,3}

Process general managers are multi-tasking, problem-solving, leadership-oriented professionals who combine business management skills with knowledge of science, mathematics, and engineering. They provide leadership at mines and production facilities to maximize their efficiency and safety. They develop and manage systems as varied as moving heavy parts and machines, delivering products to customers, evaluating mine and processing facility performance, and hiring and training workers. Process general managers are comfortable creating and implementing complex production and maintenance plans, but also utilize analytical skills to troubleshoot problems and make adjustments to improve processes. They collaborate with colleagues representing diverse areas of expertise and communicate with clients about product specifications and project status. Successful process general managers maximize the utility of production processes and ensure minerals are extracted and processed safely, on-time, and at-cost.

WHAT DO THEY DO?^{1,3}

Process general managers work onsite at mines and other types of production facilities to oversee the safe and efficient production of minerals and other products. Their work includes developing mining, production and maintenance plans and leading employees in the safe and efficient execution of those plans. They also hire workers, train them to operate mines and production facilities in accordance with safety regulations and production targets and evaluate their performance. They collect data, write reports, and maintain paperwork that documents their facilities' compliance with regulations and overall efficiency. They diagnose and address production problems, such as determining if adjustments are needed to equipment or staffing.

JOB OUTLOOK²

Overall employment of process general managers is projected to grow at about the average rate for all occupations. The employment outlook for process general managers will depend on mineral price fluctuations. When mineral prices are higher, companies invest in new on- and offshore drilling facilities staffed by process general managers and other experts.

HOW DO I BECOME ONE?¹

Process general managers will need at least a bachelor's degree in mining, electrical, or mechanical engineering, with coursework in geology, physics, thermodynamics, mine design and safety, and mathematics. Most have at least five years of leadership experience in heavy industry, including experience making budgets and work schedules. Process general managers also need creativity and problem-solving skills for designing and troubleshooting production processes, critical thinking skills for identifying costs and benefits of alternatives, decision-making skills for implementing solutions and adjusting, and communication skills for preparing and explaining documentation to others.

1 "Occupational Outlook Handbook." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/industrial-production-managers.htm>

2 "Occupational Outlook Handbook." » U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mining-and-geological-engineers.htm>

3 "Position Description: Carlin Process Maintenance Manager."
<https://www.careermine.com/job/1992996/carlin-process-maintenance-manager/>